

448, which is signed "IX *." and which duplicated lines which appeared on the previous page.

I am, Sirs, yours truly

C. DAVIES SHERBORN,

"*Index Animalium.*"

Sept. 6, '02.

[It gives me pleasure to offer my best thanks to Mr. Sherborn for the information he has given the "unenlightened American Ornithologists" respecting the reprinted leaf comprising pp. 447, 448 of Vol. IX, *Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat.*, nouvelle édition, 1817, signed "IX *." As Mr. Sherborn suspects, this is the edition of this volume, and the only one, I have consulted in this connection, and it is also the one used by Mr. Elliot. Apologies are therefore due, and are here cheerfully rendered, to Mr. Grant in respect to the citation in question.

It remains to note that if the name *fera* replaces the name *sylvestris* in the reprinted leaf, *Meleagris sylvestris* of course antedates *Meleagris fera*, so that the Wild Turkey of the Eastern United States will have to stand, from the American point of view, as *Meleagris gallopavo sylvestris* (Vieill.).—J. A. ALLEN].

Unsatisfactory Records.

EDITORS OF 'THE AUK':—

Dear Sirs:—It is with reluctance that we offer any criticism of labor which results in so much pleasure and profit as the editing of 'The Auk.' For some time, however, it has seemed to us that a stricter censorship of items for the 'General Notes' would result in a much more satisfactory standard in that department. Many interesting birds have lately been recorded, as seen, not shot, by observers whose capacity for accurate observation is absolutely unknown to ornithologists in general. Some of these records seem to bear on their face evidence of error. There appeared, for instance, in 'The Auk' for July, 1902, p. 297, a list of arrivals in the Northern Adirondacks. The author lists the White-eyed Vireo, and records its arrival from April 25 to April 30. There is no mention of the Solitary Vireo in the list. This seems enough to arouse suspicion. When one notes further that the date of the arrival of the Wilson's Thrush is given as from April 20 to April 25, nine days earlier than the date given in Chapman's 'Handbook' for Sing-Sing, N. Y., and that the Hermit Thrush does not appear in the list, it seems surprising that the list should have been printed without the least editorial comment.

We would respectfully suggest that no record of a bird merely observed, where there is any chance for error, be accepted, unless the observer be well known to the editor, or to some ornithologist of standing and judgment, who will vouch to the editor for the accuracy of the observer.

Yours respectfully,

WILLIAM BREWSTER.

RALPH HOFFMANN.

Cambridge, Mass.